

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 26 and 40 stand objected to for containing minor informalities.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9,10, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ukai et al. (US Pat. 6,254,244).

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai et al. in view of Lee (US Pub. 2002/0044437).

Claims 6, 8, 11-24, 26-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai et al.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai et al. in view of Sanz (US Pat. 4,129,900).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 1, 26, 27, 33, and 40 have been amended to more further define the invention. No new matter has been entered. Accordingly, claims 1-40 are pending for further consideration.

Claim Objections

Claims 26 and 40 stand objected to for containing minor informalities. Claims 26 and 40 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to correct the minor informalities. Therefore, Applicant requests that the objections be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ukai et al. (US Pat. 6,254,244). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on the grounds that the applied reference neither teaches nor suggests combination of features recited by claims 1, 27, and 33, and hence dependent claims 2-26, 28-32, and 34-40.

Independent claims 1, 27, and 33, as amended, recite a liquid crystal display device including, in part, “a plurality of fluorescent lamps formed below the LCD panel... positioned to directly emit light onto the liquid crystal display panel” (emphasis added). In contrast to Applicant’s invention, Ukai et al. explicitly teaches a liquid crystal display device having either two luminary lamps 6 (FIG. 1) or a single U-shaped lamp 46 (FIG. 8) formed along outer edges of the box-shaped casing 2. Consequently, the backlighting device of Ukai et al. requires a light guiding plate 5 to provide *indirect lighting* from the lamp(s) to the LCD panel 3. In other words, Ukai et al. requires lamp(s) 6 and 46 to emit light into light guiding plate 5 from the edges of the box-casing, wherein the light guiding plate 5 then directs the light to LCD panel 3. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that Ukai et al. fails to teach a liquid crystal display device with “a plurality of fluorescent lamps formed below the LCD panel...positioned to directly emit light onto the liquid crystal display panel,” as recited in amended independent claims 1, 27, and 33.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai et al. in view of Lee (US Pub. 2002/0044437), claims 6, 8, 11-24, 26-40 stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai et al., and claim 7 stands rejected under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai et al. in view of Sanz (US Pat. 4,129,900).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections on the grounds that none of the applied references, whether taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest the combination of features recited by amended claims 1, 27, and 33, and hence dependent claims 2-26, 28-32, and 34-40. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that neither of Lee nor Sanz, whether taken singly or in combination, can remedy the deficiencies of Ukai et al., as detailed above.

In particular, Sanz is directed to a fluorescent light fixture to be mounted on ceilings or walls to light a room. Sanz was only relied upon to teach using either solder or screw to attach the wires to the wire plates. Sanz is not related to a liquid crystal display device. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Sanz does not remedy the deficiencies of Ukai et al.

Lee is directed to a liquid crystal display back light assembly. Although Lee does teach a plurality of fluorescent lights that directly emit light to the LCD panel, Lee was only relied upon as teaching the optical plate for concentrating the diffused light onto the LCD panel. It is respectfully submitted that the teaching of the fluorescent lamps of Lee cannot be combined with that of Ukai et al. because these two systems are completely opposite teachings. In other words, Lee is directed to a direct-type back lighting system and Ukai et al. is directed to an edge-type back lighting system as discussed in the Background section of the present application (see pages 3-4). Because Lee's lamp structure cannot be combined with Ukai et al., Applicant

respectfully asserts that Lee cannot remedy the deficiencies of Ukai et al. as applied to independent claims 1, 27, and 33 as amended.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 27, and 33, as amended, patentably distinguish over the references of record for the reasons stated above. Moreover, claims 2-26, 28-32, and 34-40 all depend either directly or indirectly from their respective independent claims 1, 27, and 33. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that none of the references of record, individually or in combination, teach or render obvious the invention of claims 1-40. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

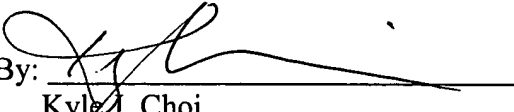
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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